

## Supervisor Burke Opens New Child Waiting Room at Compton Court

Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke is joined by (from left to right) Josephine Marckese, widow of Commissioner Jeffrey Marckese; Steven Forrest, District Administrator; Eric J. Perrodin, Mayor of the City of Compton; and Isadore Hall, Compton Unified School Board President; in the ribbon cutting ceremony for "Jeff's Place" in Compton Court.



Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke hosted the grand opening of the new Child Waiting Room at Compton Superior Court with a gala ribbon cutting ceremony. She was joined by Compton Mayor Eric Perrodin, Presiding Judge John J. Cheroske, District Administrator Steven Forrest, and Josephine Marckese, widow of the late Commissioner Jeffrey Marckese.

The room, located on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor of the courthouse, is available to children between the ages of 2 ½ years old (if they are toilet trained) and 13 years, whose caregivers are conducting business in the courthouse. It is not open to the children of jurors or employees. Hours of operation are from 8:00 a.m. to noon (when the waiting room closes for lunch), and 1:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

"This is the fourth child waiting room to open in the County of Los Angeles," said Burke. "It has space for up to 20 children at a time, staffed by licensed child care professionals, and there is a lunch program for children who need it." She stated that special care is being taken to make sure that children leave the room only with their caregivers.

Compton Courthouse staff said admittance to the waiting room requires caregivers to read and complete an information and agreement form, which includes information on where caregivers will be in the courthouse. Each caregiver and child will then receive matching identification bracelets upon admittance. Each child will be released only to an adult wearing a bracelet identical to the child's. In special circumstances where the court runs into the noon hour, the caregiver is required to contact child waiting room staff, to advise them of the delay. However, staff said the Court is making every effort to assist caregivers wearing a wristband to conclude their matters within the operating hours of the waiting room.

**BURKE**

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## Employee of the Month: Parks & Recreation's Albert J. Gomez

Albert J. Gomez has been with the County of Los Angeles for 17 years. He is currently a Recreation Services Supervisor at Pamela Park in Duarte with the Department of Parks and Recreation. He is responsible for the daily managing of the park, which requires planning, organizing and implementing all recreational activities. Gomez oversees the safety of the park and its participants who utilize the many services the park provides. In addition, Gomez is the coordinator for the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act Grant, which offers unique recreational activities for at-risk youth at Pamela, Athens and Belvedere Parks.

**EOM**

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## EVENT CALENDAR

**Music Center**  
135 N. Grand Avenue

**Ahmanson Theatre**  
(213) 628-2772  
[www.taperahmanson.com](http://www.taperahmanson.com)

May 13 - July 6 - Lily Tomlin in *The Search For Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*  
June 1 - August 24 - *The Producers*

**Dorothy Chandler Pavilion**  
(323) 850-2000  
[www.musiccenter.org](http://www.musiccenter.org)

May 22 – 25 - Los Angeles Philharmonic  
*Janacek, Ravel, Messiaen, Haydn*  
May 31 - June 22 - Los Angeles Opera  
*Don Giovanni*  
June 7 - Los Angeles Master Chorale  
*It's a Wrap!*  
June 14, 7:30 p.m. - Frederica von Stade in Recital  
with pianist Martin Katz

**Mark Taper Forum**  
(213) 628-2772  
[www.taperahmanson.com](http://www.taperahmanson.com)

May 17 - July 6 - Chavez Ravine

**Los Angeles County Museum of Art**  
5905 Wilshire Blvd.  
(323) 857-6000  
[www.lacma.org](http://www.lacma.org)

Through July 13 - "Luxury Textiles East and West  
Part I: Ceremony and Celebration"

**Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County**  
900 Exposition Blvd.  
(213) 763-3466  
[www.nhm.org](http://www.nhm.org)

June 7 - September 1 - California's Native  
Grandeur: *Preserving Vanishing Landscapes*

## The Fourth Annual Law Enforcement-Mental Health Conference

**Wednesday, June 11, 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

"A Joint Response to a Community in Crisis – Strategies for Trauma Interventions." Sponsored by the County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health in collaboration with the County of Los Angeles Mental Health Commission, the Los Angeles School Police and the County of Los Angeles Probation Department.

The event will be held at the Los Angeles Marriott Downtown Hotel, 333 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles. Law enforcement and mental health professionals will gain skills and knowledge for responding to members of our community who have experienced a traumatic event. There is no charge for the conference. Complimentary lunch will be provided. Enrollment is limited and early registration is recommended. For more information and registration, please call the County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health, Training and Cultural Competency Bureau at (213) 738-2318 for a brochure or e-mail [vborrero@dmh.co.la.ca.us](mailto:vborrero@dmh.co.la.ca.us).



Articles and other submissions to the County Digest may be edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

**Department of Human Resources**  
3333 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1000 (10th floor)  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

(213) 639-6386  
(213) 639-0940 Fax

Available online at: [hr.co.la.ca.us](http://hr.co.la.ca.us)

**WeTip WELFARE FRAUD HOTLINE**  
**1-800-87-FRAUD**

## Supervisor Knabe Kicks Off the 2003 Safe Communities Week Festival

Supervisor Don Knabe recently kicked-off the 2003 Safe Communities Week Festival in Rowland Heights. This year marked the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Safe Communities Week in the County of Los Angeles. The vitality of the County depends on how safe we keep our home, neighborhoods, work places and communities.

Operation Safe Community works to ensure that crime and fear do not diminish our trust in others and in our institutions, threatening our community's health and prosperity. Safe Communities Week was initiated to help make people aware of what they can do to protect themselves, their families, neighbors, and co-workers from being harmed by illegal drugs, violence and other crimes.

The festival was an incredible success proving once more that community involvement makes a tremendous difference in the safety of our neighborhoods. Many school, community and public service groups provided entertainment and informational booths for the public. Among the groups represented were Supervisor Knabe's office, the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, County of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation, Rowland Unified School District and Operation Safe Community.

The Safe Communities Week Festival now moves into its 12th year in Rowland Heights, striving to unite people of all ages and all elements of the community to create a safe, healthy, crime free environment through a series of community-based programs. The major focus of this long-term commitment is to make a positive difference for our communities by educating our youth and adults, providing



*Supervisor Don Knabe celebrates with Sheriff Lee Baca, Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman, Dr. Ron Leon of the Rowland Unified School District, Heidi Gallegos and Nancy Ballantyne of Operation Safe Community, and members of the Rowland Elementary Jazz Band at the 11th Annual Safe Communities Week Festival.*

positive alternatives and role models for children, and by unifying the support of the local community, including schools, businesses, religious organizations, service clubs, law enforcement agencies and local and county governments.

Operation Safe Community and the Rowland Unified School District have partnered in this endeavor for many years and have successfully increased participation in crime prevention efforts in their community, improving the quality of life for all who live there.

## Arianna Huffington Speaks to County Library Staff

Author Arianna Huffington was the featured speaker at the County Library's annual National Library Week staff breakfast, held Thursday, April 10. Huffington gave a lively presentation on her latest book, "Pigs at the Trough: How Corporate Greed and Political Corruption are Undermining America." Huffington is a syndicated columnist and political observer, in addition to having written nine books. She spoke for 45 minutes, highlighting aspects of her book and responding to questions from the audience.

Following the program, Huffington signed copies of her book.

A proclamation from the Board of Supervisors honoring National Library Week was presented to the 300 staff members attending the breakfast event. Annual service awards were given to Leticia Napoles-Morales of Hacienda Heights Library for Support Services and Olivia Clemens of Norwalk Library for Children's Services.

David Wysocki of Hacienda Heights Library received the Librarian Award.



*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*



# MAY RETIREES

*Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 30 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:*

**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/ WEIGHTS & MEASURES:**

John E. Hurley

**ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL:** Saul Marquez

**AUDITOR-CONTROLLER:** Mary A. Lukes

**BEACHES & HARBORS:** Yvonne Clark

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:** Kathleen Bergstrom

**CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES:** Gladys Givens, Daniel P. Lopez

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Elizabeth N. Hyman, Frank E. Shapiro

**COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES:** Alma Hemphill, Joan L. Rodberg

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Oreal Cotton, Gilbert J. Flores, Samuel J. Sanders Jr.

**FIRE:** William Abbott, Albert W. Ahten, Robert M. Cross, Larry T. Heale, Robert N. Schroeder, Albert R. Vasquez

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Sami Abdel-Sayid, Bettie J. Brown, Wilburn P. Dourousseau, Clifford A. Green, Marva Hopkins, Mike Ibarra, Russell Johnson, Dinesh Kumar, Lillian Lee, Charunee Luecha, Mary B. Murphy, Charles W. Patterson, Hiroko Plummer, Beverly Rivers, Patricia Rizzie, Michael Taylor, Ethel B. Williams, J. W. Woodward

**HUMAN RESOURCES/OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY:** Taylor Wilson

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Patsy T. Wilson

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Milagres C. Dias, Alma Gonzalez, Linda G. McLaurin

**PARKS & RECREATION:** Gilbert L. Mijares

**PROBATION:** Rubie D. King, Daniel J. Rosado, Mark L. Snitow

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Jody Acedo, Antonio Alfaro, C.R. Basconcillo, Natalia Fierro, Viola M. Johnson, Aziza Mikhail, Bobbie J. Potts, Cheryl L. Reagan, Belinda J. Slaughter, George J. Tukes, Gordon W. Twyford, Sheila A. Walker, Kathleen E. Wright

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Peter Rogers, Carl W. Sjoberg, David S. Wang

**REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK:** Stella Matthews

**SHERIFF:** Barbara A. Andrews, Mario P. Barron, Morris K. Boothroyd, Shirley A. Brooks, Marvin J. Dixon, Shirley A. Falconer, Deola Gandy, Andres D. Inong, Stephen J. Kearney, Larry V. Kivrizis, Richard P. McKendry, Irene M. McReynolds, Keith Mitchell, Selina Y. Norwood, Marciano M. Pedraja Jr, Samuel Porter, George E. Ramos, Daniel S. Reidder, Michael E. Riley, Rachel Sandoval, Lonnie R. Timney, Andrew Young

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Robert J. Puschman

**RETIREES**

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**EOM**

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Gomez's commitment to motivating youth began with a tragedy that hit close to home. While attending a Punt, Pass and Kick program function with co-workers in San Diego, his then two-year-old son, Nicholas, was struck by an automobile and left a quadriplegic. It was then that he realized one has the ability to help individuals reach a higher level by challenging them. Using this ideology, he created programs that inspire youth to reach for higher goals beyond their assumed physical and/or mental limitations. These programs include: "The Cheer Off Program," which allows young girls to participate in cheering competitions; "County Capers" that offers youth a chance to dance and sing in musicals and use of the Schiff Cardenas Crime Prevention Act of 2000, which allows for the expansion of recreational activities for at-risk youth.

Gomez is very proud of the cheerleading program he created with Keith Garrison and Margaret Marrieta. "We saw a lack of competitive programming for girls and started this program with only four parks and squads for a total of about 50 girls in 1995," he said. "The cheerleading program currently has 20 parks participating and approximately 300 girls," Gomez added.

"The most fulfilling aspect of my job is seeing the youth we have mentored, grow into responsible adults with a sense of responsibility to themselves and their communities," Gomez said. One of the quotes Gomez always finds himself repeating to young people is, "Don't worry about the person you are today, but rather concentrate on the professional you will be tomorrow."

Gomez and his wife, Virginia, display their community activism by establishing a Campfire group for young people eight to 12 years of age that gives them an opportunity to learn about camping and provides their son Nicholas a means to take part in activities otherwise not available to him. Additionally, Gomez is involved with a local elementary school collaborative that assist with recruiting volunteers for school activities and helps families identify solutions to social and/or monetary needs.

According to Gomez, his wife Virginia, is his best friend and pillar of his strength. They have three active sons, Nicholas, 11; Andrew, 9; and Jonah, 5. Gomez stated that his family is the motivation for everything he does and hopes others will have the same joy that he has been blessed with.

## Supervisor Antonovich Honored with National Award for his Work on Behalf of Los Angeles County's Children

On April 8, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich was honored as the recipient of the National Association of Counties' (NACo) 2003 "Counties Care for Kids" award in Washington D.C. for his efforts on behalf of the children of Los Angeles County.

The NACo award program seeks to highlight the critical role counties play in early childhood development and school readiness.

"Supervisor Antonovich deserves to be especially recognized for his tremendous work and innovative ideas in caring for our nation's children and families," NACo President Kenneth A. Mayfield said.

As an advocate for children and youth, Antonovich has initiated after school programs, instituted the Toy Loan Programs at community centers, and created a Missing Foster Children Web site.

In 1992, Antonovich helped start "The Children's Center" serving abused children in the Antelope Valley, and with the Antelope Valley Hospital established Healthy Homes, a home visitation program to prevent child abuse and promote positive parenting.

On April 6, 2002, Supervisor Antonovich hosted the first Foster Youth Career Fair and Resource Expo for emancipating foster youth, providing employment and educational opportunities to this vulnerable population.

His motion to exempt emancipated foster youth from the County's department-wide hiring freeze was unanimously approved by the Board of Supervisors.

"It is imperative that we communicate to our emancipated foster youth that the entire County family is behind them and wishes for them to succeed in life," Antonovich said.

For children in the system, Antonovich is reforming policies and procedures to provide greater support to foster youth and their families, and is pushing to cut the red tape and streamline the adoption process.



*Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich with his children, Michael, Jr. and Mary Christine, and Larry Naake, Executive Director of NACo.*

### RETIREES

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*Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 25 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:*

**AUDITOR-CONTROLLER:** Rex C. Gordon

**BEACHES & HARBORS:** Winnie Fisher

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Sue A. Harris, Bette J. Vanderbrug, Elizabeth Y. Ybarra

**COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES:** Cathy Cogliandro

**CORONER:** Paul A. Willis

**FIRE:** Rosendo F. Gonzalez, Donald R. Littlejohn Sr, Larry G. Speaker, Nelson V. Tagarao

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Martha Castano, Jovita A. Chotiwatnana, Romelia A. DeBaran, Celso F. Gomez, Maxine Morales, Roberto Navarro, Maria Ochoa, Jessie Parrish, Alfred Sedillos, Beathrice L. Simmons, Jacqueline R. Smith, Isaac Yeung

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Michael T. Chen, Judith A. DeGeorge, Henry A. Kilburg, Dominador C. San Antonio

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Wilfredo Soria

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Raul Domingo, George Folk, Mostafa M. Mohajer

**SHERIFF:** Edward G. Castro, Josephine Delgado, William Horowitz, Steven R. Jimenez, Larry LaRiviere, Marleen A. Shaw, Anthony S. Sorgi

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Doyce G. Phillips

# ENRICHING LIVES... through Sharing A Commitment



## County of Los Angeles VISION

Our **purpose** is to improve the quality of life in Los Angeles County by providing responsive, efficient and high quality public services that promote the self-sufficiency, well-being and prosperity of individuals, families, businesses and communities.

Our **philosophy** of teamwork and collaboration is anchored in our shared values:

- ◆ responsiveness
- ◆ professionalism
- ◆ accountability
- ◆ compassion
- ◆ integrity
- ◆ commitment
- ◆ a can-do attitude
- ◆ respect for diversity

Our **position** as the premiere organization for those working in the public interest is established by:

- ◆ a capability to undertake programs that have public value
- ◆ an aspiration to be recognized through our achievements as the model for civic innovation
- ◆ a pledge to always work to earn the public trust

## Courtesy

## Dignity

## Respect

The County of Los Angeles is committed to Customer Service and Satisfaction. In order to reemphasize that commitment on behalf of employees, departments, and partnering agencies providing health and human services, the County and community representatives developed the following Standards. They are an integral part of the County's commitment to service excellence and to create [to the creation of] an integrated health and human services delivery system that improves outcomes for children and families.

The Standards describe "best practices" for County staff and our community partner agencies in three specific focus areas:

### Personal Service Delivery:

The way employees interact with customers and fellow staff while providing services.

### Service Access:

The promotion of available health and human services and the ease and timeliness of accessing them.

### Service Environment:

The internal and external surroundings in which services are delivered.

We value your efforts to treat customers and your fellow employees with courtesy, dignity, and respect. Working together, we will strive to make all of these Standards a reality. Thank you for your efforts to improve the lives and futures of children and families in the County of Los Angeles through service excellence.

# Customer Service and Satisfaction Standards



The County of Los Angeles health and human service departments and their partners are working together to achieve the following customer service and satisfaction standards in support of improving outcomes for children and families.

## ***PERSONAL SERVICE DELIVERY***

The service delivery team - staff and volunteers - will treat customers and each other with courtesy, dignity, and respect.

- Introduce themselves by name
- Listen carefully and patiently to customers
- Be responsive to cultural and linguistic needs
- Explain procedures clearly
- Build on the strengths of families and communities

## ***SERVICE ACCESS***

Service providers will work proactively to facilitate customer access to services.

- Provide services as promptly as possible
- Provide clear directions and service information
- Reach out to the community and promote available services
- Involve families in service plan development
- Follow-up to ensure appropriate delivery of services

## ***SERVICE ENVIRONMENT***

Service providers will deliver services in a clean, safe, and welcoming environment, which supports the effective delivery of services.

- Ensure a safe environment
- Ensure a professional atmosphere
- Display vision, mission, and values statements
- Provide a clean and comfortable waiting area
- Ensure privacy
- Post complaint and appeal procedures



## Office of Public Safety Chief Bayan Lewis Retires

In 1997, the Board of Supervisors directed the consolidation of Safety Police Officers assigned to the Internal Services Department, the Department of Health Services, and the Department of Parks and Recreation into the Office of Public Safety. The purpose of the consolidation was to improve police management, develop standardized policies and procedures, create a disciplinary system, replace antiquated equipment, fill rising personnel vacancies and establish goals and a strategic planning process.

This was no small task considering the long and varied history of the Safety Police/Park Police. It had its historic beginnings in 1915 when the Board of Supervisors established the “Los Angeles County Watchmen” to protect County property. They patrolled the Civic Center in plain clothes and were armed with service revolvers provided by the Sheriff’s Department. The Watchmen were paid \$85 per month.

In searching for the appropriate person to lead the Office of Public Safety, Director of Personnel Michael J. Henry selected the former interim City of Los Angeles Chief of Police, Bayan Lewis. This selection was fully supported by the Board of Supervisors.

Chief Lewis came to the Office of Public Safety with 34 years of impeccable credentials as a law enforcement executive with an outstanding reputation as a leader, innovator and humanitarian.

Chief Lewis has an unusual and fascinating personal history. He was born at Letterman General Hospital at the Presidio of San Francisco, where his father was a U.S. Army Military Police Officer.

He spent two years working on a cattle ranch in Idaho, which gave him his life-long love of the Old West and the “cowboy” way of life.

Chief Lewis pursued his college education at Valley College, Pepperdine University and UCLA, earning a Bachelor’s Degree in Public Administration. He also completed postgraduate work at USC.

Chief Lewis joined the Los Angeles Police Department in 1963 and worked a variety of patrol, traffic and administrative assignments until his appointment as Interim Chief of Police by the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners in May 1997.

Prior to the appointment, Chief Lewis was assigned to the Office of Operations where he commanded 6,000 of LAPD’s patrol and detective personnel. He also commanded Operations – Headquarters Bureau, which oversees the Department’s specialized detective functions, Air Support Division and Metropolitan Division, home of the elite SWAT Platoon.

During his tenure with the LAPD, he served in the California National Guard’s 40<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division for 23 years, retiring as a

Lieutenant Colonel of a Tank Battalion. He also is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Chief Lewis was ideally suited to lead and reorganize the Office of Public Safety. His 34 years in law enforcement provided him the necessary skills, training and knowledge to develop a pre-eminent specialized police operation.

Few police executives have the opportunity to create a police operation of the magnitude of the Office of Public Safety. It is the fourth largest police agency in the County of Los Angeles. It consists of 681 budgeted positions responsible for the protection of County property, County employees and citizens who visit County facilities and parks.

Chief Lewis was instrumental in developing the following Office of Public Safety operations and procedures, and these are only a partial list: Mission Statement, Strategic Planning, Redesign of Badge and Uniform, 100% POST Certification, Weapons of Mass Destruction Team, Tactical Response Force, Special Problems Unit, Boat Enforcement Detail, Replacement of Fleet and Weapons System, Remodeling of the Downey Headquarters Building, Opened Quartz Hill and Whittier Narrows Police Stations, Planning and Research Unit, Management and Disaster Training, Mobile Communication System, Operations/Procedure Manual, Centralized Records Unit, Employee Assistance Unit, Honor Guard, Office of Public Safety Web site and Chaplin Program.

On May 2, Chief Lewis retired as Chief of Police, Los Angeles County Office of Public Safety after 40 years of police service to the citizens of the County of Los Angeles. He made a significant impact to the protection of the community and the betterment of the police service.

He is regarded in the police profession and to those who know him as a highly professional police executive, an innovator and skilled leader who has the full confidence of the men and women he has led, trained and developed over his 40 year career. He leaves the police service with best wishes of his colleagues and friends as he starts his new “cowboy” life in Minden, Nevada with his wife Denise and stepdaughters Sarah and Jillian.





## Supervisor Molina Honors Civil Rights Leader César E. Chávez During Service Week and Official Stamp Unveiling

Supervisor Gloria Molina honored the late labor leader César E. Chávez twice in one month by hosting both a week of service and an official stamp unveiling ceremony dedicated to his memory.

Molina and thousands of employees participated in the County's Second Annual César E. Chávez Service Week, which began March 21. More than 1,500 employees volunteered at nine nonprofit agencies, libraries, parks, and probation camps. In addition, employees donated over 18,600 pounds of food for needy families via 168 County facilities.

"I have always believed that a day of service was the best way to honor a man who dedicated decades of his life to building civic participation and demonstrating what real community involvement is all about," Molina explained.



*Supervisor Gloria Molina (left) helps beautify the Eastmont Community Center in East Los Angeles during César E. Chávez Service Week. Later, on April 23, Supervisor Molina hosted the official unveiling of the United States Postal Service stamp honoring Chávez (right) in the County's Hall of Administration Mall Courtyard.*

Chávez has become an inspiration to millions of Americans seeking social justice and civil rights for the poor and disenfranchised. Born on March 31, 1927, Chávez and his family migrated across the Southwest, laboring for years in fields and vineyards. These experiences eventually motivated Chávez to organize the United Farm Workers (UFW) union, which staged a successful grape boycott in the 1970s by exposing the hardships and injustices of farm worker life to mainstream America. Senator Robert F. Kennedy declared Chávez to be "one of the heroic figures of our time," and one year after Chávez' death, President Bill Clinton posthumously awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the highest civilian honor in America.

Interest in Chávez' life continues to grow. By the end of Chávez Service Week, the County's Public Library department Web site honoring Chávez became the eighth most frequently visited destination of all the sites managed by the department with a total of 13,757 hits. The top five downloaded documents from the Chávez Web page included the Chávez curriculum (15,038 hits), the Chávez index (2,163 hits), Chávez-related community and library events (912 hits), the story of the UFW flag (816 hits), and Chávez' biography (737 hits).



In honor of working families during Chávez Week, all Los Angeles County Museum of Art-West exhibits—including the Lewin Latin American Art and Boone Children's Galleries—were open without charge to the public. In all, approximately 1,000 people took advantage of the free exhibitions.

But perhaps the most anticipated Chávez "exhibition" was yet to come. On April 23, Molina hosted the official national unveiling ceremony of the César E. Chávez commemorative postage stamp at noon in the County Hall of Administration Mall Courtyard. Representatives from the United States Postal Service and the César E. Chávez Foundation helped organize the event.

"Today we are reminded again of what the life of this American hero was all about," Molina stated during her opening remarks. "Through his sacrifice and unyielding commitment to the rights of so many men, women, and children, César taught us that, indeed, one person can make a difference and lead a movement that lives on today. He taught us that one person can empower an entire community to believe that, united, we can take on any injustice and any struggle."

Various elected officials and dignitaries attended the ceremony including Governor Gray Davis, City of Los Angeles Mayor Jim Hahn, UFW Co-Founder Dolores Huerta, as well as Congressmembers Hilda Solis, Lucille Roybal-Allard, and Xavier Becerra. Four generations of the Chávez family were also present, and more than 1,000 Chávez devotees witnessed the ceremony—many purchasing commemorative, first-issue Chávez postage stamps that were released that day only in the Los Angeles area.

Illustrator Robert Rodriguez painted the stamp image, which depicts Chávez against a background of empty grape fields. The following text appears on the back of the stamp: "Civil rights leader Cesar E. Chavez (1927-1993) founded the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO. A tireless advocate for justice and equality for all people, he dedicated his life to working in service of others."

## Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) Information Bulletin

In response to the questions and concerns regarding the new medical condition called SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), the County Chief Administrative Office (CAO) advises following the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and our state and local public health agencies. Currently, the CDC advises those who may have been exposed to a SARS case to: (1) monitor their own health for 10 days following their potential exposure and (2) immediately see their personal physician if symptoms develop. (Call in advance of visiting the doctor). The doctor would then evaluate for SARS or other causes of their symptoms. There is no advisory at this time to quarantine someone with symptoms that could be SARS unless a medical determination of SARS is made.

The following information is provided by the CAO Risk Management Branch medical staff to address some of the more frequently asked SARS-related questions. Since medical information related to SARS is rapidly changing, frequent monitoring of SARS information resources is recommended.

### What is SARS?

“SARS” is short for a disease called “Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome” and is a severe respiratory disease caused by a virus. Outbreaks of SARS have occurred in Asia, North America, and Europe. The big concern with SARS is that, though it is like an influenza (“flu”) infection in some ways, it is a very severe infection. Current data (WHO Bulletin, 5-10-03) indicate that of the 7,296 cases of SARS worldwide 526 have died, although the 5-7-03 California DHS report indicates that none of the 328 cases in the United States have died. It is important to keep this in perspective by noting that influenza causes many more deaths each year than SARS has caused. As of 5-7-03, California had reported 65 suspect or probable cases of SARS, but there is presently no evidence of community transmission in California of the agent responsible for SARS.

### If I were exposed to SARS, how long would it take for me to become sick?

The incubation period for SARS is typically 2-7 days; however, isolated reports have suggested an incubation period (i.e., the time after exposure before the disease shows itself) as long as 10 days. The CDC definition for a SARS case only includes cases with onset after February 1, 2003.

### What should I do if I have recently traveled to a country where cases of SARS have been reported? What symptoms should I watch for?

The CDC has issued travel ‘advisories’ (i.e., recommending that nonessential travel be deferred) for mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. CDC has also issued travel ‘alerts’ (i.e., not advising against travel, but informing travelers of a health concern and providing advice about specific precautions) for Singapore, Hanoi, Vietnam and Toronto, Canada and is recommending that U.S. travelers to these areas observe precautions to safeguard their health.

If you did just return from a SARS-related area, you should monitor your own health for 10 days following your return. If you become ill with a fever of over 100.4°F [ $>38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ], a cough or difficulty breathing, you should consult a health care provider. To help your health care provider make a diagnosis, tell him or her about any recent travel to regions shown above. The CDC currently has a test for SARS-related Coronavirus.

### What is the risk to individuals who may have shared a plane or boat trip with a suspected SARS patient?

Cases of SARS continue to be reported primarily among persons who have had direct close contact with an infected person, such as those sharing a household with a SARS patient and health care workers. It is important for these individuals to remember that they should monitor their health for 10 days following their return from SARS-related locations (note: this is described in the SARS Information Card received upon returning through U.S. Customs). It is believed that the ease with which this illness can spread can be decreased with attention to good infection control practices, some of which are summarized below.

### Are there any recommendations to help prevent contraction or transmission of SARS?

CDC has recommendations at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/ic-closecontacts.htm> - general advice includes:

- Delay any elective travel to areas/regions at risk for SARS at this time.
- SARS patients should limit interactions outside the home and should not go to work, school, out-of-home day care, or other public areas for 10 days after respiratory symptoms and fever are gone.
- Careful and diligent hand hygiene, such as frequent hand washing or the use of alcohol-based hand rubs.

### I am worried that my children go to school where some of the other children have relatives visiting from countries where SARS has been found. Can my children get SARS in this way?

- This does not appear to be a problem because it seems that SARS is only spread by individuals who are sick with SARS (i.e., those who have symptoms). Presently there is no reason to restrict anyone who is not ill.

More information, updated regularly, is available at (Check daily for current information):

- On the CDC Web site (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/faq.htm>), and
- The County of Los Angeles Acute Communicable Disease Control SARS Information Page for information and “Basic FAQs” available in English, Chinese, Spanish, and Vietnamese at <http://www.lapublichealth.org/acd/SARS.htm>.
- Workplace information: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/pdf/workplace.pdf>
- County of Los Angeles SARS Hotline (800) 989-5255 (available in 7 languages).

## Ford Amphitheatre Season Opening May 30 Celebrates Global Connections



The 2003 summer offerings at the historic outdoor Ford Amphitheatre mirror the County of Los Angeles as a mecca for artists from a myriad of cultures. The season extends over 22 weeks, from May 30 to November 1, and encompasses 75 performances of 63 different events embracing world culture, dance, theatre, classical music, jazz, bluegrass, cabaret, film and family fare.

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, in whose Third District the Ford resides, said “This year’s Ford summer season is a virtual showcase of international talent. We’re very proud once again to highlight the County of Los Angeles as a hub of global culture and artistic creativity.”

Complete 2003 season information and tickets are available by calling the Ford box office, (323) GO 1-FORD (461-3673), or by logging onto the bilingual (English/Spanish) Ford Web site, [www.fordamphitheatre.org](http://www.fordamphitheatre.org). The Ford Amphitheatre season is a program of the Los Angeles County Arts

Commission and is produced in collaboration with Los Angeles County-based arts organizations. Univision KMEX Channel 34 and TeleFutura KFTR Channel 46 are television media sponsors for the 2003 season.

The Eighth Annual Red Nation Celebration opens the season May 30. The Ford welcomes the 2003 edition, titled “Native Women in Music,” as the first American Indian event in the 11-year history of the Ford Amphitheatre summer season. The Latin fusion band Quetzal celebrates its 10th anniversary at the Ford.

Ten events during the first month of the season comprise the Latino Arts Festival International featuring artists from Cuba, Mexico, Spain and the United States. Eleven events scheduled in the last two months of the season constitute the Latino Heritage Celebration. In all the season is studded with a total of 41 performances featuring Latino artists, the result of the Ford’s three-year Latino Arts Initiative started in 2002 and funded by the James Irvine Foundation.

Prices for evening events range from \$15 to \$45. Those who purchase tickets to three or more evening events receive a 20% discount. Discounts for groups of 15 or more are also available.

### BURKE

*continued from page 1*

The waiting room is called “Jeff’s Place,” in memory of the late Commissioner Jeffery Marckese, who died in a tragic car accident in 2002. It is funded through a portion of civil filing fees. Supervisor Burke also made \$32,000 available from her extraordinary maintenance fund.

Others present at the ribbon cutting ceremony included Compton councilpersons Dr. Melanie Andrews and Isadore Hall, former Councilwoman Delores Zurita, City Attorney LeGrand Clegg, and a number of community leaders and citizens.

Child waiting rooms are also available in the Central Court building, and in courts in Long Beach and Pomona.



*From left to right: Mona McLure, Court Manager, court employees, June DeVille and Kim Williams with Tiffany Steward, Director of the Child Waiting Room. “Aurora Plush,” a local business donated the stuffed animals to the Child Waiting Room.*



# Share It

## *We at the County of Los Angeles...*

- Circulate 15 million books and materials through our 84 libraries and four bookmobiles.
- Answer more than 10 million questions annually at our libraries.
- Inspect 45,200 gas pumps and 15,800 scales annually to ensure their accuracy.
- Welcome more than 14 million persons each year to County parks and facilities.
- Maintain and operate 31 miles of public beach along the County's 81-mile shoreline and manage the world's largest and most modern small craft harbor.
- Respond to more than 230,000 emergency medical calls annually, including 9,963 fires and more than 10,000 ocean lifeguard rescues.
- Conduct more than 130,000 fire prevention inspections.



- Give 426,000 immunizations a year to protect residents against everything from diphtheria to polio.
- Make 400,000 health inspections of facilities annually, including 24,000 restaurants.
- Provide in-patient care to 78,000 persons annually at our six hospitals and treat 234,000 for emergencies and traumas annually.
- Distribute water safety education materials to approximately 50,000 people annually.
- Place or return to owners 25,000 animals annually; respond to 45,000 service calls; and spay and neuter 18,000 animals.
- Operate one of the largest flood control systems in the world, including 15 major dams, 2,600 miles of underground storm drains; 75,000 catch basins; and 500 miles of open channel.
- Maintain more than 3,100 miles of major roads and local streets in unincorporated areas and 1,700 miles in cities.
- Own and administer five general aviation airports.
- Issue an average of 52,000 building permits annually for construction valued at \$1.65 billion.
- Provide construction plan checks for more than 2,000 building projects to ensure safe construction and proper occupancy usage.



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**Gloria Molina**  
First District

**Zev Yaroslavsky**  
Third District

**Don Knabe**  
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**Michael D. Antonovich**  
Fifth District

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Director of Personnel

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**Martina Abgaryan**  
Editor